



Chris Smoot
Public Information Officer
(Office) 435- 657-3254
(Cell) 385-225-2682
csmoot@wasatch.utah.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Update

Officials at the Wasatch County Health Department are actively monitoring the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and working with partner organizations in an effort to prevent its introduction to Wasatch County and limit its spread should it arrive. Because the situation is rapidly changing, the department advises the public to get the latest information on COVID-19 by visiting reputable websites, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov) or the Utah Department of Health (health.utah.gov/coronavirus).

COVID-19 is caused by a novel (new) virus that was first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and has since spread to several other countries, including a few locations in the United States. While health officials are concerned about the potential for COVID-19 to reach Wasatch County, the immediate risk to the public is believed to be low at this time.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has established criteria to guide public health agencies and healthcare providers in determining who should be tested for COVID-19. Those who meet this criteria are identified as Persons Under Investigation (PUI) – see graphic for details.

All those who meet the definition of PUI or anyone else concerned about their risk of exposure to COVID-19 should call **(435) 657-3232** for an assessment. For those who are ill and want to see a healthcare provider, including urgent care clinics or emergency departments, health officials ask that they call ahead of time to help limit potential exposure to others.

The use of facemasks should be limited to those who are sick or individuals taking care of those who are sick in a closed setting, such as at home or in a healthcare facility. The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

To help prevent the spread of any illness, health officials strongly advise people to regularly wash their hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds and to stay home when they are sick. For respiratory diseases, officials further encourage the public to practice good hygiene etiquette by covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or, if a tissue is unavailable, cough or sneeze into their upper sleeve – never into the hands.

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